

Menston Area Nature Trust Conflict of Interest Policy



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Review carried out by: Emma Dalton & Francesca
Bridgewater

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A conflict of interest is any situation in which a trustee's personal interests or loyalties could, or could be seen to, prevent the trustee from making a decision only in the best interests of the charity.

The trustees of Menston Area Nature Trust (MANT) will strive to avoid any conflict of interest between the interests of MANT on the one hand, and personal, professional, and business interests on the other. This includes avoiding actual conflicts of interest as well as the perception of conflicts of interest.

The purpose of this policy is to protect the integrity of MANT's decision-making process, to enable our members to have confidence in our integrity, and to protect the integrity and reputation of members, volunteers and trustees.

Examples of conflicts of interest may include situations such as:

- a trustee who is related to a paid adviser has to take decisions about the adviser's pay and/or conditions;
- a trustee is also on the committee of another organisation that is competing for the same funding;
- a trustee has shares in a business that may be awarded a contract to do work or provide services for the organisation;
- a trustee benefits, or is seen to benefit, from MANT transactions or activities that have a monetary value.

MANT keeps a written register of interests for trustees. Upon appointment each trustee will make a full, written disclosure of interests, such as relationships, and posts held, that could potentially result in a conflict of interest. This written disclosure will be kept on file and will be updated as appropriate.

Our policy in practice

In the course of meetings or activities, trustees will disclose any interests in a transaction or decision where there may be a conflict between MANT's best interests and the trustee's best

interests or a conflict between the best interests of two organisations that the trustee is involved with.

After any such disclosure, the trustee may be asked to leave the meeting to allow for further discussion by other trustees. Where a perceived conflict of interest is deemed to exist, the trustee may not vote on that decision. If a conflict of interest is perceived but not definitive, Section 6 in MANT's governing document will be used as guidance by trustees.

Any such disclosure and the subsequent actions taken will be noted in the minutes.

This policy is meant to supplement good judgement, and trustees, members and volunteers should respect its spirit as well as its wording.